

**CENTRAL COVENTRY
LITTLE LEAGUE**

OPERATIONAL RULES

2011

I. Purpose Statement

Twenty years from now it won't matter who struck out, who dropped a fly ball, who hit the home run, or how many wins and losses your Little League team had. But, the world will be a better place if you make a difference in a child's life. We as a league are fully committed to act accordingly to follow that simple motto.

Our League is much more than just gloves, helmets, bats, balls, a field, dugouts, or any of the other many physical items that go into baseball. It has become, over time, a leadership program for both children and adults, with the goal of helping children to become good and decent citizens. Children learn the positive values of good sportsmanship, fair play and teamwork – values they can use throughout their lives. Adults involved as volunteers can convey their leadership qualities to today's children so they will grow to be tomorrow's leaders. Any decision made by our League shall be made with three of these questions answered in the affirmative:

- 1.) Is this in the best interest of the children of the community?**
- 2.) Will it bring credit to Central Coventry Little League and to the community as a whole?**
- 3.) Have I made this choice with ALL of the children in mind, not just my child?**

II. Operating Rules

This section contains rules, approved by the Board of Directors, which concern the day to day operation of the League. They supplement the Constitution of Central Coventry Little League and are in accordance with the rules of Little League Baseball, Inc.

A. Managers, Coaches, Divisional Directors and other volunteers

- Eligibility
- Appointment & term
- League Membership
- Duties
- Termination

B. Selection of Managers

1. Major Division
2. Minor Division,
 - a. AAA,
 - b. AA, A, T-Ball
3. Challenger Division
4. Fall Ball

C. Selection of Coaches

1. Major Division
2. Minor Division, AAA, AA, A, T-Ball
3. Challenger Division
4. Fall Ball

- D. Selection of Players
 - 1. Major Division (Draft Rules)
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 - 2. Minor Division, AA, A, T-Ball
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- E. Maintenance of Rosters
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- F. Training and Developmental (Fall Ball)

- G. All-Stars and Tournament Teams
 - 1. Major Division
 - a. A-All-Stars
 - i. Managers and Coaches
 - ii. Players
 - b. 10/11 Year Old Tournament Team
 - i. Managers and Coaches
 - ii. Players
 - c. 9/10 Year Old Tournament Team
 - i. Managers and Coaches
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 - d. Tournament Team
 - i. Managers and Coaches
 - ii. Players
 - 2. Minor Division
 - a. AAA and AA Tournament Team

- H. Complaints

- I. Changes to Operating Rules

II. Divisional Playing Rules

This section contains the playing rules of the various divisions of the League.

- A. Major Division

- B. Minor Division
 - 1. AAA
 - 2. AA
 - 3. A

- C. T-Ball
- D. Challenger
- E. Fall Ball

III. Operating rules

- A. Managers, Coaches, Divisional Directors and other volunteers

Section 1. Eligibility

Any Regular Member of the League is eligible to be appointed as a Manager or Coach or Divisional Director. Managers, Coaches, Divisional Directors and other volunteers who work directly with players, must complete and submit an official "Little League Volunteer Application" to the President. Annual background screenings must be completed prior to the applicant assuming his/her duties for the current term/season. Refusal to complete the application will result in immediate dismissal from volunteer positions. In competitive divisions or levels of play a divisional director shall not be a manager or coach in the division or playing level to which they are assigned.

Section 2. Appointment and Term

Managers, coaches and divisional directors are appointed by the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, and serve for a period of one year. The appointment is from September 1st to August 31st.

Section 3. League Membership

Any manager or coach or divisional director who is not already a Regular Member of the organization must become a member within thirty (30) days of his/her appointment as manager or coach, as outlined in Article 3. A manager or coach who is not approved for membership may not manage or coach in the League, effective with that vote.

Section 4. Duties of Managers and Coaches

A. The manager's duties include:

- i. to teach baseball, teambuilding and sportsmanship skills to the players entrusted to him/her;
- ii. to be the League's primary communicator with parents. Such communication should include, but not be limited to: coaching philosophy, the goals, objectives, rules and regulations of Little League and the team, expected behavior by player sand coaches and the team's practice schedule.
- iii. to be ultimately responsible for all necessary administrative functions required by the League as determined by the Board of Directors.
- iv. to be familiar with and adhere to all rules and regulations of Little League as outlined in the Official Rule Book and of added CCLL rules and regulations as distributed.
- v. to be familiar with and adhere to all rules and regulations required by the Town of Coventry while utilizing Town owned facilities.

B. The Coach's responsibilities include:

- i. assisting the manager in teaching baseball, teambuilding and sportsmanship skills to the players entrusted to him/her.
- ii. adhering to the team philosophy and aiding in communicating to parents the goals, objectives, rules and regulations of Little League and the team and expected behavior by players.

- iii. to be familiar with and adhere to all rules and regulations of Little League as outlined in the Official Rule Book and of added CCLL rules and regulations as distributed.
- iv. to be familiar with and adhere to all rules and regulations required by the Town of Coventry while utilizing Town owned facilities.

C. Termination of a Manager or Coach

Any manager or coach may be dismissed by a 2/3 majority vote of the entire Board of Directors. Such votes may only be held after a proper hearing at which the manager or coach must be invited to attend and be given the opportunity to explain his/her actions.

D. Divisional directors responsibilities include

- i. Develop and distribute written information packet for division managers to include divisional rules, manager and coach contact information.
- ii. Distribute to managers once schedule made by President
- iii. Assist in interpretations of divisional rules with Managers
- iv. Decide whether individual games should be postponed or cancelled, reschedule games and practices
- v. Attempt to settle any conflict(s) before sent to the President and Board of Directors, promptly report all complaints or conflicts to President.
- vi. Inform Field and Maintenance Committee about field conditions and Work to maintain fields the division plays on.
- vii. Assist in distribution and collection of uniforms and equipment
- vii. Organize Division on Opening Day and Closing Ceremonies
- viii. Establish availability to Players parents at Parent's Night
- ix. Contact & schedule umpires for AAA (AAA only) Interact with umpire group (majors only)
 - x. Organize umpire-training session with all AAA managers and umpires
- xi. Work with Major League Umpire Chief on Major League level
- xii. Work with Player Agent & President at All Star & Tournament meeting to count votes
- xiii. Work with the President to make any All Star and/or tournament team practice schedule

Selection of Managers

Managers in **ALL** divisions have **NO** tenure from year to year, their appointment end at the end of the playing season.

1. Major Division

Major Division Managers are appointed for a one season term. The Little League Baseball season runs from October 1st to September 30th.

At the October League meeting, the League President May at his or her discretion appoint a selection committee. The committee may consist of no fewer than 3 members and must minimally include the President, the Player Agent, and at least one other member of the League.

All applications for a Major Division manager position must be made via letter to the League President. The President shall announce at the October League meeting, and via the League website, that such letters of application are being accepted and the deadline for their receipt. Major Division Managers will be appointed for approval by the board of directors no later than the December League Meeting.

2. Minor Division, AAA, AA, A, T-Ball Challenger

Minor Division, AAA

All applications for AAA level manager positions must be made via letter to the League President. Immediately following the Major Division Draft and player notification, the President shall announce on the league website that such letters of application are being accepted by the President or Player Agent and the deadline for their receipt. The President will appoint the AAA level managers. All appointments are then subject to Board approval.

Minor Division AA, A, T-Ball and Challenger Division

Managers will be appointed by the President and are selected from those individuals who have expressed an interest in managing and have provided their baseball or youth coaching experience, if any. All appointments are then subject to Board Approval.

Fall Ball

Fall Ball managers will be appointed by the President from those individuals who have expressed an interest, by letter to the President, in managing and have provided their baseball or youth coaching experience, if any. All appointments are then subject to Board Approval.

Selection of Coaches

Major Division

Following the Major Division draft, Major Division Managers may provide the names of up to two coaches, not to exceed (2) two Coaches per team, to the League President for consideration of appointment and approval.

Minor Division

Following the AAA draft, AAA Managers may provide the names of up to two coaches, not to exceed two coaches per team, to the President for appointment and Board approval.

Following the AAA draft, Managers in AA, A, T-ball, and Challenger may submit the names of two coaches, not to exceed two coaches per team, to the President for appointment and board approval.

Selection of Players

Major Division

Players in the Major Division are selected by a draft process as outlined below. All CCLL players ages league age 9 through 12 are eligible to play in the Major Division and must attend player evaluations (tryouts) as outlined in Little League Baseball's Rules and Regulations.

Draft Attendance:

Attendance at the draft will be limited to the following individuals:

- a)** Major Division managers who have been appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors, prior to the draft, in accordance with Little League rules;
- b)** The Player Agent(s);
- c)** The League President.
- d)** Chairman of Rules Committee

All Appointed and Approved Major league managers shall participate in the Major Division draft.

The draft will be conducted by: CCLL Player Agent(s)

Major Division teams carry a mandatory roster of 12 players. Teams will have some returning players from the **previous** season. Returning players must be registered prior to the draft. A list of registered returning players will be provided to the Team's manager by the Player Agent prior to the draft and again at the time of the draft. Each team will then draft as many players as is necessary to bring its roster to 12.

Any CCLL player eligible for the draft whose parents wish that he/she not be considered for the Major Division draft must notify the Player Agent, in writing, prior to the draft and do so with the understanding that declaring the player ineligible for the draft makes the player ineligible for playing in the Major Division for the remainder of the season. The Player Agent will identify those players ineligible by parental notification at the beginning of the draft.

Order of the Major Division Draft:

The draft of eligible players begins with the reverse order of Major Division final standings from the previous regular season and continues until all teams have filled their rosters. Only those 9-12 year old players who attended an evaluation session are eligible to be drafted. All candidates who are league age twelve must be drafted to a major division team, exceptions can only be made with written approval of the parent, the board of directors and the district administrator, . A list of all eligible players will be provided to each team at the beginning of the draft. Those players league age 9 through 11 who do not attend tryouts are not eligible for the Major Division. All league age 12 players will be drafted on to Major Division Teams

The order of the draft is the reverse order of the previous season's Major Division regular season standings.

Options

All options to draft brothers/sisters of players already on a Major Division team, or to draft sons/daughters of Major Division managers, must be submitted to the Player Agent, in writing prior to the start of the draft.

i) Brother/Sister Options

An option for a brother/sister of a current team member must be used within the first three rounds.

In those situations where there is more than one family member eligible for the draft, and there is no family member already on a Major Division team, the following will govern such draft selections:

a) when the first family member is drafted, if it is the manager's intention to also draft a brother/sister, the manager must immediately declare an intention to do so, and the second family member will automatically be entered as that team's next draft choice.

ii) Manager Options

A manager who wishes to draft a son/daughter must use his option based on the player's age by the round indicated by the following table:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Round</u>
9,10	5
11	4
12	3

If the manager has more than one son/daughter of the same age whom he wishes to draft, they must be drafted in such a manner that the last child is drafted by the round indicated in the table, above. For example, two 10 year old twins must be chosen by the manager no later than the 4th and 5th rounds.

A manager wishing to exercise the aforementioned option, can do so only if they have been a manager or coach *in the league* for a minimum of two years.

Please Note: Any player whose brother/sister or son/daughter option is not utilized by the round outlined, above, will become eligible to be drafted by any team throughout the remaining rounds of the draft.

Note: Any team which must draft eight or more players will be allowed one bonus pick at the completion of Round 4. Such picks will occur in the same order as regular rounds of the draft.

12-year olds:

Prior to the draft the Player agent will identify the number of twelve year olds eligible for the draft and the number of twelve year olds currently assigned to each of the Major division teams.

The total number of Twelve year olds to be drafted shall be divided equally among the major division teams. If the total number of twelve year olds is not evenly divisible by the number of teams, the remaining number of twelve year olds must be drafted by the teams with the least number of twelve year olds currently on their rosters in ascending (least to most) order by current number of twelve year olds, then draft order. Teams may draft more than the required number of twelve year olds at any time during the draft. The maximum of eight (8) twelve year olds per team shall not be exceeded.

Team Age Restrictions:

As outlined by the Little League Rules and Regulations there is a maximum of eight (8) 12 year olds on a team. Each Team may draft no more than one nine year old eligible player. There are no age restrictions governing the number of 10, or 11 year olds on a Major Division team.

Trading:

Following the draft, managers may, if they desire, trade players. The league will follow the Little League operating rules with regard to trading. **All trades shall be made through and with the approval of the player Agent.** All trades involving existing players cannot be finalized without the permission of the player and his/her parents.

Notification of Drafted Players:

Immediately following the finalization of the draft, a notification will be sent to all players who attended an evaluation session by the player agent.

Each Major Division manager is asked to call each drafted player on his team to introduce himself and to welcome the player to his team. The notification will indicate that you will be calling. The call should be made no earlier than two days (48 hours) following the draft so as to allow the notification to arrive. Players' phone numbers can be found on the list of those eligible to be drafted which you will receive on the night of the draft.

Confidentiality of the Draft:

Per Little League rules, the proceedings of the draft are to remain confidential. No player should ever know the order of who was chosen. As kids will talk among themselves, you are asked not to divulge who was chosen or not chosen prior to two days (48 hours) following the draft so that players will receive notification at the same time.

Minor Division

AAA Level

Players in the AAA Level are selected by a draft process as outlined below. All CCLL players ages league age 9 through 12 are eligible to play in the AAA Level and should attend player evaluations (tryouts) as outlined in Little League Baseball's Rules and Regulations. 12 year old players who have been approved for exclusion from the Majors are automatically drafted to a AAA team. Those players league age 10 through 11 who do not attend tryouts will still be eligible for the AAA draft and must be drafted. 9 year olds wishing to be considered for AAA must be evaluated or attend tryouts.

The draft will begin with a blind lottery. Each manager will choose a number and the manager with the lowest number will choose his drafting position, continuing until all managers have been assigned a draft position.

The manager who has the first draft position shall choose first from eligible players, followed by the second position and so on until the last draft position has chosen. Then the manager with the last draft position shall have the first choice in the second round following in reverse order to the manager with the first draft position. The draft order of the first two rounds shall repeat until the rosters of the teams have been filled.

A Manager who has a child eligible for the draft has the option of choosing their child in the third round and must declare that intention prior to the draft.

Siblings of drafted players shall be drafted in the round immediately following.

AAA teams carry a mandatory roster of 12 players. Each team must draft as many players as is necessary to bring its roster to 12.

Minor Division, AA, A, T-Ball

Minor Division, AA, A, and T-Ball teams will be formed after the AAA draft by the Player Agent. The Player Agent may utilize the assistance of the League President and Division Director for each applicable division if needed. Each team will consist of a maximum number of players as set forth by the League Operating Rules. Players will be placed on teams in an attempt to create parity among all teams within a division. Major League Managers' assessment of players who participated in the Major Division tryout the previous Fall along with Minor Division Managers' assessment of players who participated in league play the prior year will serve as guiding tools to aid in the assignment process.

Recommended alignment:

AA Division will be age 8 – 9 (undrafted to AAA), separate rules will follow.

A Division will be age 7, separate rules will follow.

Instructional will be league age 6, separate rules to follow

T-Ball Division will be age 4 – 5 who are first year players, separate rules will follow.

Additional criteria will be:

- Age of players (equitable distribution among teams as best possible)
- Players with no league experience (equitable distribution among teams)

Upon application by a parent, the player agent, with board approval, may place a player in a lower playing level.

Fall Ball

Fall Ball teams will be formed by the Player Agent. The Player Agent may utilize the assistance of the President and the Fall Ball Director if needed. Each team will consist of at least 10 players and a maximum of 14 players based on the number of registrants for the program. If more than one team exists, as even as possible distribution of players from each division's regular season play will be used in an attempt to create parity among the teams. Fall Ball will have Major Division and AA Division teams. Separate Playing rules will follow.

Maintenance of Rosters

Major Division

Each player acquired by a Major Division team, shall for the duration of their Little League career, be the property of the team making the acquisition, unless subsequently traded or released.

Little League Regulation II(d) allows the CCLL Board of Directors to continue as a player any child whose residence changes after becoming a member of the Major Division. The best interests of the child should be taken into consideration by the Board in exercising this right.

Trading:

Following the draft, managers may if they desire, trade players until 14 days after the first scheduled game. ALL TRADES SHALL BE MADE THROUGH AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE PLAYER AGENT. The league will follow the Little League Operating Rules with regard to trading. All trades involving existing players cannot be finalized without the permission of the player and his/her parents.

Team Registration and Release of Players:

Five days prior to the first scheduled league game, each Manager shall confirm with the Player Agent the number of players as determined under Little League Regulation III(a). Proper release of Major Division players due to injury, illness, relocation or resignation is mandatory. Managers must notify the Player agent of any players needing to be released, immediately.

During the season, the Player Agent must monitor teams to ensure rosters are at the proper level as outlined in the CCLL Major Division Playing Rules. Managers are required to inform the Player Agent if a player has been repeatedly absent, has moved, resigned or is injured/ill and is unable to play due to injury/illness for more than two weeks. Failure to notify the Player Agent of any of the above situations is cause for disciplinary action against the Manager by the CCLL Board. The Manager will be required to appear before the CCLL Board of Directors for a hearing at which time disciplinary action will be determined.

Rosters To Little League Headquarters:

The Player Agent will submit the finalized rosters to the President and Little League Headquarters through the league website and registration program no later than 14 days from the first scheduled game of the season. The President will in turn submit the Rosters to Little League Headquarters.

Replacement of Players:

When a player is lost to a team during the playing season for any of the following reasons:

- 1).** He/she moves to another city or state too distant to commute for practice or play;
- 2).** He/she is injured/ill and will not be able to return to play within a 2-week period of time;*
- 3).** He/she has for personal reasons decided to terminate his/her association with the team;
- 4).** Any other justifiable reason, reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors;

*Players who are injured/ill for an extended period of time and wish to remain a member of the team may, at their Manager's discretion, remain on the team. The Manager must choose a replacement player as outlined below and once the injured/ill player is able to return to play, must maintain both players on his/her roster and fulfill playing time as outlined in the Major Division Playing Rules. The Manager of the team losing a player shall promptly advise the Player Agent. The Player Agent shall advise the President and the Board immediately. Once the Board has approved the release of a player, the President will send a letter of release to the Player and the parents stating the player is released from the Major Division team and CCLL.

Once the Player Agent has been notified, the Manager will have two weeks (fourteen days) to replace the player. The Manger shall review the available player list with the Player Agent. Mangers may request the candidates' game and practice schedule so that he/she and his/her coaching staff may scout prospective candidates. *If there are age appropriate players (as outlined in the Major Division Playing Rules) new to the League and had registered at February registration sessions (after player evaluations), they may be eligible for consideration. The Player Agent will arrange for a Player Evaluation Session open only to those players (returning Minor Division players who did not attend Player Evaluations are not eligible). All Major Division Managers and coaches will be invited to attend this evaluation session.*

Once the Manager has selected a player he/she must notify the Player Agent and the Player Agent will notify the Player and his/her parents. The Player Agent will disclose to the Player and his/her parents the Player's options (as outlined in the draft rules) once the selection process is final the Player will take his/her place on the Major Division team at the next meeting of the team (practice or game). The replacement player becomes a permanent member of the team.

A player lost in the last two weeks of the regular season will not be replaced and the team will continue to play without adding a replacement player.

Note: Failure to follow the above procedure for replacing players will result in disciplinary action against the Manager. The Manager will be required to appear before the CCLL Board of Directors for a hearing at which time disciplinary action will be determined.

Minor Division, AAA, AA, A, T-Ball

If at any time during the season a player leaves or is selected to play in a higher division, it will be at the discretion of the Player Agent and Division Directors from both that division and the division immediately below as to whether or not the player will be replaced, as long as a minimum roster of 12 players is maintained by the team.

If the position is to be filled, it must be done within two weeks of the date in which the vacancy becomes known.

Registration assistance

Requests for hardship relief from registration or other expenses shall be directed to the President, will be evaluated on a case by case basis in a strictly confidential manner, and will then be subject to board approval

All Star and Tournament Teams

Manager Appointments:

Interested managers and/or coaches within the division of play will notify the President of their interest in managing an All Star or Tournament team by May 1. The President will appoint a Manager for each of the All Star and Tournament teams by the time of the May Board of Directors meeting. The appointments will be presented for Board approval at the May Board of Directors meeting.

Major Division -All Stars:

1). Manager (1) and Coaches (2)

The Coaches will be selected by the Managers and all positions will then be subject to Board Approval.

2). Players (1 - 14)

A Selection Committee consisting of the President, Player Agent, Division Director and Major League Managers will all participate in an election to select 10 of the players. The All-Star Manager then has the option to take a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 additional players of his choosing. If the manager declines to select a minimum of 2 or a maximum of 4 additional player(s), then the Selection Committee shall pick the remaining players to fill out the roster.

Major Division 10/11 Little League Tournament Team

1). Manager (1) and Coaches (2)

The Coaches will be selected by the Managers and all positions will then be subject to Board Approval.

2). Players (12 - 14)

A Selection Committee consisting of the President, Player Agent, Division Director and Major League Managers will all participate in an election to select 10 of the Eleven year old players. The All-Star Manager then has the option to take a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 additional players of his choosing. If the manager declines to select a minimum of 2 or a maximum of 4 additional player(s), then the Selection Committee shall pick the remaining players to fill out the roster. Only after exhausting the eligible eleven year old players in the major division, ten year old major division players may be added to complete the roster

9,10 Year Old Tournament Team:

1). Manager (1) and Coaches (2)

The Coaches will be selected by the manager and all positions will then be subject to Board Approval.

2). Players (12 - 14)

A Selection Committee consisting of the President, Player Agent, Division Directors and Major League Managers will all participate in an election to select 10 of the nine and/or ten year old players. The All-Star Manager then has the option to take a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 additional players of his choosing. If the manager declines to select a minimum of 2 or a maximum of 4 additional player(s), then the Selection Committee shall pick the remaining players to fill out the roster. Only after exhausting the eligible players in the Major Division, nine or ten year old players from the AAA playing level may be selected to fill the roster size as determined by the Manager.

11/12 Tournament Team (s):

1). Manager (1) and Coaches (2)

The Coaches will be selected by the manager and all positions will then be subject to Board Approval.

2). Players (12 - 14)

The Manager of the Tournament Team shall select all the players for this team.

Procedures for election of players to ALL Star and Tournament Teams.

1. All eligible players will appear on the ballot for each of the teams as they are elected.
2. Each Manager in the Division will be given 5 minutes to present information on players from his or her team that they feel will be useful in the election.
3. The ten eligible players receiving the highest numbers of votes will be elected to the team.
4. If there is a tie on the tenth available player a re-vote of the tied players will be undertaken until there is an eligible player with a higher number of votes.
5. The Player Agent shall be the individual to tally and record the voting and results.

Fees for All Star and Tournament team players.

Each player chosen for an All Star or Tournament team will be charged a fee.

Minor Division

AAA Tournament Team:

1). Manager (1), Coaches (2) and Players (12 to 14)

The Manager and, Coaches shall be appointed by the President, giving preference to the manager with the best record in the AAA Division. Ten (10) Players will be selected by a committee consisting of the President, Player Agent, Division Director and Managers of the Division. It will be determined

by a majority vote of the committee as to the exact process used to make such selections. The appointment of both the Managers and Coaches will then be subject to Board Approval.

The Tournament Team Manager will then have the option to take 2 to 4 additional players of his choosing.

2.) A second AAA tournament team may be formed at the discretion of the President and AAA Division Managers. The Manager and Coaches shall be appointed by the President. Ten players will be selected after the initial AAA team has been selected and the Manager has exercised his option to add additional players.

The second Tournament team manager will then have the option to take 2-4 additional players of his choosing.

AA – Tournament Team:

The Manager and, Coaches shall be appointed by the President. The appointment of both the Managers and Coaches will then be subject to Board Approval. Ten (10) Players will be selected by a committee consisting of the President, Player Agent, Division Director and Managers of the Division. It will be determined by a majority vote of the committee as to the exact process used to make such selections. The Tournament Team Manager will then have the option to take 2 to 4 additional players of his choosing.

H. Complaints/Procedures

1. All complaints regarding Managers, Coaches, Players, Parents, Games, Practices, Umpires, Field conditions or other operations of the league are to be made to a Divisional Director. The Divisional Director will address the expressed concerns, and report those concerns to the President.

I. Changes to operating rules

Following the adoption the operating rules by the Board of Directors, any proposed changes to the operating rules will be referred by the Board of Directors to the Rules Committee to develop or review language to effectuate the proposed change. The proposed change will be voted and approved by the Rules Committee and presented to the Board for a vote and approval at two consecutive board meetings before the change is adopted.